

Remarks

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 28, 2003. Claims 1-6 and 10-16 are pending in this application. By the present Amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-9 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added to the application.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that "claims 9-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Accordingly, by the present amendment, base claim 6 has been amended to include the respective recitations of claims 7-9, which are now cancelled. It is submitted that claims 6 and 10-16 are now in condition for allowance.

II. REJECTIONS OF THE CLAIMS

The claims stand rejected as follows:

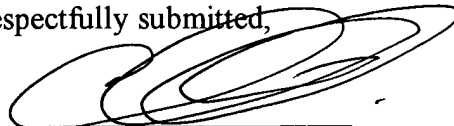
- A. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,569,327 (the '327 patent);
- B. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 USC §103 in view of the '327 patent;
- C. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC §103 over the '327 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,674,348 (the '348 patent); and
- D. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 USC §103 over the '327 patent in view of the '348 patent.

As mentioned above, claims 1-5 and 7-9 have been cancelled and claims 6 and 10-16 are now in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner. Thus, each of the above rejections is now moot and withdrawal is requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claim of this application (namely claims 6 and 10-16) are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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